

THE CITIZEN

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The Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill

This form of communication has been used rather than an unsigned editorial as I do not want to implicate others concerned in The Citizen with my personal views.

The Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill has a popular sound, and it would seem to be pagan, prejudiced and un-Christian to oppose any measure that has as its prime object the lessening of crime and the establishing of human rights. In spite of this popular understanding, I am opposed to the Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill as it now stands.

I wish to emphasize strongly my bitter abhorrence of lynching, and lawlessness in any form. I consider it the epitome of barbarism, the very essence of hell turned loose upon society, and with this view of lynching I am opposed to the present Dyer Bill. My reasons are fundamental. They are grounded in my primary views of government and the dual form as we have it in the United States.

There are two views of government abroad in our land. The exponents of both are honest and trustworthy. One view holds to a strong centralized government which concentrates the power of governmental and political life in our national capitol. The other believes in local self-government, allowing a community, county and state to enact the major laws under which they live, and hold themselves responsible to local and state tribunals. These two views of government are fundamental as human society, and it is suicidal in the first degree to barter one's claim upon either one for public opinion.

The tendency of this country is too strongly drifting toward centralized government. Centralized government in its highest form is Prussianism—is monarchy—and ultimately becomes tyranny. Why do we not have national laws to provide our local educational systems? Why not national laws to try the common murderer who is known in every city in the Union? Why not have national laws to oust a governor from his seat as chief executive because he has the power granted him by the state to pardon wilful murderers whose crime may be too hideous to relate? All of these are pertinent questions that have a bearing on the Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill.

As much as I abhor lynching and wish it were blotted from the face of the earth, I would not write upon the statute books of our national government a law that would impinge upon the legal authority of a state. My first reason for opposing this bill is that it is unconstitutional. I have read much of what has been said in Congress on both sides. I know the exponents of the bill claim that it is constitutional. I know that it is not difficult to declare a bill constitutional, provided those who have the authority to declare it so are in sympathy and accord with the bill itself. Our Supreme Court is made up of distinguished gentlemen of impeccable character and veracity, but men whose governmental ideas have been trained in a particular school, and they either lean toward strong centralized government or local self-government, and if there is a doubt, the human side of the Supreme Court prevails and their own sympathies sometimes prejudices decide the issue. I grant that the bill could be declared constitutional, but it invades the sacred rights of local government.

My second great reason for opposing the bill is that it is a sectional bill and will undo every attempt to enforce law in many states that the best agencies are trying to encourage thru the process of education. The Inter-racial Relationships Committee, Tuskegee, Hampton, and a number of state laws that have been passed within the last four years are striking at the vitals of the lynching system. South Carolina has the most drastic lynching law in the Union. A county may be fined \$2,000 if a lynching takes place and the criminals are not brought to trial. The state of Kentucky has a law that any official can be removed from his position by the governor for failure to prevent lynching. That has been carried out on two different occasions. The jailers of Woodford and Bourbon counties have been removed by Governor Morrow for allowing a prisoner to be taken from jail. What would the Federal Government do in this case under the Dyer Bill? The act of the Federal Government in entering proceedings against a county or state in connection with a lynching case would arouse sectional and community antagonism that could not be relieved by any reasonable process of education. I can see no legitimate point where the Federal Government could interfere with the state or county procedure against a band of lynchers. Very few lynchings occur that some sort of a trial does not take place. In fact, I have never known but one or two lynching cases where nothing whatever was attempted. The trials might have been a farce, unscientifically managed, and were without soul or serious intent, but nevertheless they were trials, and according to the Dyer Bill nothing would have been the result of Federal interference.

Another important reason why I oppose the lynching bill as it stands at present that it designates lynching and does not include other forms of crime, like the Herron massacre in Illinois, and the race riots that have occurred in a number of cities. The bill only applies to lynching where the party lynched has been apprehended or is being sought for a crime. It makes no provision to cooperate with the state or the county in taking care of any other unspeakable crimes that take place in the United States. I could mention a single city in America where more murderers have gone unpunished, or with only a farcical attempt at punishment, than all the lynchings of the country, and that does not lessen my abhorrence of the lynching. America's record is not made bad solely thru her lynchings, but thru her failure thruout the nation to punish crime in general. A woman in Philadelphia deliberately blew out the brains of her husband and another woman just because of suspicion, and she was declared not guilty by the court. The decision of the court might have been correct, but a double murder was registered to the credit of the United States. Until the Dyer Bill is expanded to include types of crime that do not altogether approximate, but are approaching, lynching in their hideousness, I am opposed to it.

The sentiment of the bill seems more to attack a state than the people committing the crime, and I am not ready to say that the officials of any state in the Union endorse lynching as a system. As a citizen of the United States who believes in his country, but believes that it should be well balanced in its legislation, I have expressed my opinion. Please do not hold The Citizen or anyone connected with it responsible for this personal opinion.

Sincerely,

MARSHALL E. VAUGHN.

Stealing Walt Mason's Stuff

Take now the case of old John Tate, whose pa burned candles and thought 'em great. He gets his light from a dynamo, year in, year out, come rain, come snow. He turns a switch, and thru-out the room bright light dispels the gait'ring gloom.

Now this identical Mr. Tate pays countless dollars to operate his motor car—a—fleet, which put three garage men on easy street. He stands in silence deep and dumb and watches the butcher weight his thumb. We all expected to hear him rave when charged two bits for a ten-cent shave, but he paid the price—with a tip thrown in—and left the shop with a cheerful grin.

One day he went to pay his rent and the landlord raised it a hundred per cent. Did he rant and roar? Not old John Tate! He hocked his diamonds and fam'ly plate and sold his golf clubs to pay the rent, which left him busted, without a cent.

When he goes to a show—as he sometimes will—he will stand in line with a smile until after waiting a couple of hours or more, while his ankles swell and his feet get sore, a ticket broker will let him pay some fourteen dollars for seats that may prove to be in the nineteenth row, at most, and more likely behind a post.

When he buys his clothes his tailor'll say: "I don't see how you keep this way! Your waist is the same, no smaller, no bigger! How in the world do you keep your figure? Now here's a pattern—what I say's true—designed for a younger man than you, but you can see, just as sure as fate, that it's just the thing for you, Mr. Tate. I know you'd take it, without a doubt. Pay the cashier two hundred as you go out. Yet, I know it's expensive, but dear me, suz—" Does Tate rebel? Like Kelly does! Tate rebel? Like Kelly does!

But when the light bill comes around then hair is torn and teeth are ground! He roars at his wife and he kicks the cat and goes downtown without his hat. He shouts aloud his Hymn of Hate—No Corporation Can Swindle Tate!!!! He swears he'll rend 'em limb from limb—No Wall Street Baron can Bunco Him!!!! No bloated bondholder shall get his kale—Tate will seize his oppressors and throw 'em in jail. He knows their tricks! He will not pay, tho they sue him from now until Judgment Day! He knows they lurk in the Street called Wall and scheme to gobble the poor man's All, but now their iniquitous race is run. They've picked the wrong victim—a hard-boiled one. Tate is aroused! The worm has turned. He'll pay for orly the light he burned and you can't tell a man with common sense that he owes a dollar and sixty-eight cents.

What is the matter with old John Tate? He paid his garage bill up to date, he paid the price for the butcher's thumb, he paid the barber and hurried from the pawn shop to give his last red cent to the profiteer who increased his rent, he paid the scalper, he bought the suit, he stood for these hold-ups and still was mute. Now, why should he fly into a rage intense over a dollar and sixty-eight cents? He used the current; why don't he pay? How does our hero get that way?

MR. AND MRS. HOUK GO TO LANCASTER

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Houk and babies moved Tuesday to Lancaster, Ky., where Mr. Houk will assume the position as secretary of Garrard county of the Farm Bureau.

Mr. and Mrs. Houk will be greatly missed in Berea, and good wishes of many friends go with them.

Mr. Houk is a graduate of the Vocational School of Berea College and has been superintendent of the College farm for four years.

He will be succeeded in Berea by George Spurlin, of Muhlenberg county. Before the war Mr. Spurlin was manager of a 260 acre farm. After the war he entered the State Agricultural College at Lexington, Ky., from which he was graduated. He took his major work in farm management and his minor in livestock.

HARTS SETTLEMENT BANQUET

The third annual banquet at Harts Settlement was well attended. The room was prettily decorated with white flowers and ferns. The tables were well filled with all that supplies the need of the inner man. The serving was done in excellent style by the young ladies of the school.

After all had partaken of the good things provided, the gathering was called to order by Jacob F. Browning, who served as toastmaster in a most admirable fashion. His ready wit in the introductions of the speakers added much to the joy of the evening. Apart from E. W. Lockin, who gave a cordial welcome speech, no one knew who were to be called on for remarks. The persons thus surprised were Rev. W. C. Noble, H. J. Christopher, Miss Silvers, Dr. R. H. Cowley, Dean C. N. McAllister, Rev. Howard Hudron, Robert Spence. The speeches were a happy mixture of humor, commendation and encouragement.

A. B. Strong, teacher, gave a report of the growth of the school from 1918 to 1922. The expansion and growth in the school and community was clearly shown and speaks much for Mr. Strong and his community helpers. A radio concert then followed, where vocal and instrumental music was heard from all over our fair U. S. A. A cordial invitation was extended for next year. Expression of pleasure and thanks separated the happy company.

SONG OF THE FLIP-FLAP (A Nursery Rhyme)

I live in a hole in the chinky-po tree
Where the limbs grow big and long,

Where the flip-jack rides on the woodchuck's knee
And the wind blows loud and strong.

I drink the drops of the misty dew
That cling to the wish-tish vine,
And I eat the buds of the mistle yew

And the leaves of the wild woodbine.

I sing my song to the dreamy moon,
And the stars of the milky way,
But I keep my bed thru the sultry noon,
For I sleep thru all the day.

I sleep my sleep in a roly-hole
High up in a chinky-po tree,
Where the sunbeams gleam and the cloud mists roll
And the birds flit merrily.

I stay at home and I take my rest
While the wood folks come and go,
And I dream sweet dreams in a cozy nest
As I rock my baby-o.

—John F. Smith
Berea College.

THE DREAM CAR

A thousand cars go down the road
As fast as cars may travel,
A thousand more come back again
Sky-hooting thru the gravel.

And all night long I hear the horns
And see the headlights gleaming,
And yet the car that comes for me
Comes only when I'm dreaming.

The driver shoots his car along
And singing as he shoots it,
He toots his horn and I will start
The moment that he toots it.

And I'll be waiting at the gate,
And then before they find us
We'll be a thousand miles away
And they as far behind us.

I see my people tear their hair
The days we keep them guessing,
But we can live as long, I hope,
Without as with their blessing.

And all night long I hear the horns
And see the headlights gleaming,
And yet the car that comes for me,
Comes only when I'm dreaming.

—Alson Baker
Berea, Ky. (In Lexington Herald)

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THE CITIZEN		

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Only Four More Days Left

In which to purchase at the big saving from our large stock of household furnishings, including our dining-room suits, bed-room suits, parlor suits, davenport suits, library tables, end tables, davenport tables, rocking chairs, dining-room chairs and tables, china closets, buffets, serving tables, card tables, kitchen tables, sewing machines, rugs and floor coverings, breakfast room suits, cedar chests, parlor lamps, electroliers, mirrors, pictures, trunks and wardrobe trunks, traveling bags and suit cases, overnight cases, ladies' hat boxes, Boston handbags, beds, springs and mattresses, kitchen cabinets.

Stoves, Stoves, Stoves

We still have about twenty good used stoves for sale. These stoves are all being carefully gone over and put in good working condition and put up in your home at the low price of \$5, \$10, \$15 and \$20. A small payment down and the balance on easy terms. We must sell these stoves in the next four days in order to make room for a carload of Majestic stoves which are on the way.

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